

Spokane, Washington 99201-3335 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Office of the Mayor

"Spokane – Near Nature, Near Perfect"

SPOKANE WA 992

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Olympia, WA 98504-0100 1125 Washington Street SE PO Box 40100 State of Washington Rob McKenna, Attorney General Office of the Attorney General



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October 9, 2006

Rob McKenna, Attorney General Office of the Attorney General State of Washington 1125 Washington Street SE P.O. Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100

Date Assigned 10/12/06
Assignee: CP - Doug Walsh
cc: ANT; Rob mcKenna

Re:

Spokane/EasternWashington Gasoline Prices as Compared to Western

Washington and the Nation

Dear Mr. McKenna:

Please consider this request for your office to provide any information you may have or could gather about the price of gasoline over time in Spokane and Eastern Washington as compared to Western Washington and the nation. I have received several inquiries from citizens of this community about high gas prices, and, with this letter, I am asking your office to look into the issue so that he may appropriately and factually respond to citizens.

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We have reviewed the materials on your web page on this subject, and we understand and appreciate the underlying supply/demand argument and increased consumption based on population growth in the state as reasons for increased gas prices. As gas prices decline, however, Spokane and Eastern Washington gas prices continue to compare unfavorably to Western Washington and the national average.

For instance, a month ago the Spokane regular price was \$3.084 compared to Seattle at \$2.904 and the national average at the same time of \$2.751. Prices today in certain Western Washington cities are as follows: Bremerton (\$2.627), Olympia (\$2.603), Seattle/Bellevue/Everett (\$2.610), Tacoma (\$2.549) and Vancouver (\$2.547), while Spokane is at \$2.694, Tri-Cities are at \$2.736 and Yakima is at \$2.697.

Our non-expert review of this information over time leads us to conclude that Spokane/Eastern Washington pricing has consistently been higher over time, and it is this curious fact that leads us to seek your more expert assistance in responding to citizen

inquiries. In addition, this information will be helpful to us as we think about policy and supply issues for our community and region.

Thank you for your assistance, and I look forward to a response from your office on this specific issue, so that we may share it with our citizens.

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Hession

Mayor

cc: Doug Walsh, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Larry Briney, Assistant Attorney General James Richman, Assistant City Attorney